

Docket No. 500.36322CX1
Serial No. 09/621,054
Office Action dated October 4, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions,
of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

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1. (Canceled)

9. – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A discarded article treatment processing method,
comprising the steps of:

treating the discarded article on the basis of a selected treatment procedure
for segregating harmful or hazardous material to be separated;

monitoring a situation in which said discarded article is being treated and
checking whether the relevant work has been completed or will be able to be
performed in conformance with the selected treatment procedure through the
medium of a detecting means;

reading out, from information concerning said discarded article, alternative
treatment procedures serving a same purpose as said selected treatment procedure
in case it is decided that said treating situation suffers abnormality;

selecting practicable alternative treatment procedures capable of being
carried out by facilities installed in a treatment-entrusted factory which is in charge of
treatment of said discarded article;

generating another separation method or procedure for segregating harmful
or hazardous material to be separated by cutting said discarded article;

Docket No. 500.36322CX1
Serial No. 09/621,054
Office Action dated October 4, 2006

comparing the practicable alternative treatment procedures and another separation procedure with one another and determining the most inexpensive procedure; and

treating said discarded article on the basis of said determined treatment procedure.

12. (Currently Amended) A discarded article treatment processing method, comprising the steps of:

treating the discarded article on the basis of a selected treatment procedure for separating parts incapable of being treated by facilities installed in a treatment-entrusted factory which is in charge of treatment of said discarded article, or for segregating harmful or hazardous material to be separated;

monitoring a situation in which said discarded article is being treated and checking whether relevant work has been completed or will be able to be performed in conformance with the selected treatment procedure through a medium of a detecting means;

reading out, from information concerning said ~~discarded article, alternative treatment procedures serving for a same purpose as said selected treatment procedure and information concerning facilities required for executing said alternative treatment procedures~~ separation procedures for taking out the parts, harmful or hazardous material from the discarded article, the information concerning the facility or equipment demanded for the execution of the separation procedures and the information concerning equipment or facilities installed in the treatment-entrusted factory, in case it is decided that said treating situation suffers abnormality;

Docket No. 500.36322CX1
Serial No. 09/621,054
Office Action dated October 4, 2006

~~selecting determining an alternative treatment procedure capable of being carried out by facilities installed in the treatment entrusted factory from the information concerning the facilities installed in the treatment entrusted factory and the information concerning the facilities required for executing said alternative treatment procedures; and~~serving for a same purpose as selected treatment procedure on the basis of the information acquired in the reading out step;

determining the position or location at or along which the parts, harmful or hazardous material can be cut and separated from said discarded article without being impaired on the basis of the location information and the dimensional information concerning the parts, harmful or hazardous material, in case it is decided that the candidate for the alternative treatment procedure is not found;

treating said discarded article in accordance with said ~~selected~~determined alternative treatment procedure or separating the parts, harmful or hazardous material by cutting.

13. (Withdrawn) A discarded article treatment processing method as set forth in claim 12,

wherein said facility information required for executing said alternative treatment procedure contains information concerning facility operating costs;

said step of selecting said treatment procedure includes the steps of:

determining, arithmetically, overall operating costs involved in carrying out said alternative treatment procedures, respectively; and

selecting an alternative treatment procedure which is lowest with regards to said overall operating cost determined arithmetically.

Docket No. 500.36322CX1
Serial No. 09/621,054
Office Action dated October 4, 2006

14. (Withdrawn) A discarded article treatment processing method, comprising the steps of:

treating the discarded article on the basis of a selected treatment procedure for segregating variable things to be separated;

monitoring situation in which said discarded article is being treated and checking whether relevant work has been completed or will be able to be performed in conformance with the selected treatment procedure through a medium of a detecting means;

reading out, from information concerning said discarded article, alternative treatment procedures serving for a same purpose as said selected treatment procedure in case it is decided that said treating situation suffers abnormality;

comparing information concerning the purchase prices of the variable things with the cost involved in the separation treatments according to said alternative treatment procedures;

selecting an alternative treatment procedure which can ensure highest profit; and

treating said discarded article on the basis of said selected alternative treatment procedure.

15. (New) A discarded article treatment processing method as set forth in claim 12,

wherein the detecting means monitors a screw loosening torque and detects that the screw cannot be separated even with a screw loosening torque of magnitude greater than a predetermined value.